

Mr. PATTERSON: If we had to do it, yes. Mind you, I do not know how much money the Parsons people spent on developing the report that they prepared but they must have spent a considerable amount of money in developing it to the stage they have; but they did not scratch the surface in the matter of information required to determine whether the plan is feasible. I think they have indicated the engineering study would cost \$200 million.

Mr. DAVIS: Would they have spent a few thousand or a million, or—

Mr. PATTERSON: They would have spent quite a few thousands of dollars, I would judge.

Mr. FULTON: You referred to the matter of shortage of staff, and so on. This is a—

The CHAIRMAN: This is supplementary, Mr. Fulton?

Mr. FULTON: Yes. This is a continuing problem; if you had authority in one body to co-ordinate all the other bodies doing research and study in the water resources field, then you would be able to considerably expand your own program, would you not? The National Research Council is listed in the return I got, and I see it reports to the Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research. Well, let us take one example. If you could direct and co-ordinate the work of all these various bodies in the field, then you would be able appreciably to expand your work, would you not?

The CHAIRMAN: Dr. Harrison, did you—

Mr. HARRISON: Well, yes, I think it is safe to say, sir, that there is a general shortage of scientific and engineering capability in the country in all fields. It is also I think a truism to state that there are no hydrologists until they have been trained as hydrologists after graduation. So that to the extent that there is competition for people who are trained in hydrological investigations, whether they are on the research or applied side, if these were all concentrated in one department, I doubt whether it would change the total program of requirements for hydrologists. I think it is also safe to say that a good many of the agencies who are carrying out investigations in water are doing a specialized kind of investigation which has no impact, at least their cessation would have no impact on the number of hydrological engineers who might be made available to this department. I do think, however, sir, that we have the opportunity within this department, and I propose to pursue it in order to try and co-ordinate the various investigations that are being carried out in water research in Canada, and to have a systematic type of investigation which can be modified to suit the needs that may come up from time to time. The key point, regardless of whether they are all consolidated or diverse, is the extreme shortage of trained engineers and hydrologists to carry out a good many of these investigations.

Mr. FULTON: Dr. Harrison, I do not want to ask you to say what you think policy should be but I want to ask you if you can tell me whether there is presently a policy under which you are working with respect to this co-ordination of these areas, governmental bodies, who are working in the field of water study.